

INSIDE: 28 PAGES OF COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!



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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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Vendors return!

Big weekend for Bay Street Latino food stalls

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper



Photo by Jason Givens/Epoch

The Red Hook Vendors are back — and a hero has emerged: El Olomega!

The Latino food vendors returned this weekend to Red Hook Park, and people from as far as Manhattan swarmed the sidewalks at Clinton and Bay streets to get the first taste of their favorite tacos, tamales, ceviche, pupusas, huancaina and jicama.

On an open-air day, the Salvadoran El Olomega — serving a soft pupusa made famous by Carlos Ayala way back in 1988 — had obviously won over the hearts (and stomachs) of customers.

"These are definitely fresher," said taste-tester Anna McAllister, who said that some of the competition was overpriced and contained pre-made ingredients.

"El Olomega is the totally real deal. [El Olomega] has done a great job with these."

But as good as it is, El Olomega has competition among the trucks lining Bay Street.

Neighboring the Country Boys truck served up some hot, tasty huancaina. And Victor and Ana's truck was back with questionably grilled corn. And another crowd favorite is the umbrella ceviche truck. Go for the shrimp (\$5).

But really, wait on line for El Olomega. It's worth it.

"Usually, you choose by whichever truck is closest," said vendor Nelly regular Dean Medarp. "I've been here plenty, and [El Olomega] is the best pasta and just happens to have the longest line."

Red Hook Vendors at Red Hook Park (Bay and Clinton streets in Red Hook).



Brooklyn Paper/Giovanni

Prospect Park West features pedestrians, bikers, stroller pushers and speeding cars and trucks. The city says a bike lane, protected by a row of parked cars, is the answer.

City: Bike lane will make Park Slope streets safer

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

BIKE LANE EDITORIAL! SEE PAGE 10

ard for pedestrians not accustomed to looking out for cyclists heading in two directions.

But the city defended its decision, saying that the lane would make Prospect Park West safer — for everyone.

"We prioritize safety above other types of considerations," said Jenson Bosh, director of the Department of Transportation's bicycle program. "Speeding is a problem on that stretch, and we're going to keep people safe."

The current bike lane inside Prospect Park is one-

See BIKES on page 12

City to 'Stop the Chop' over Brooklyn Heights

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The constant rumble of helicopter noise over Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO is over, thanks to a new city ban on sightseeing flights over the area.

The move to bar tourist helicopters comes after months of complaints from Heights residents about chopper noise stemming from a proposed Lower Manhattan helipad.

The new flight plan could eliminate up to 30 percent of those tourism flights — though news and emergency flights will, of course,

continue.

Also, helicopters will no longer be allowed to hover below 1,500 feet.

"The resolution was a quick effort to deal with the problem," said state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights), who spearheaded the "Stop the Chop" campaign. His office was bombarded with complaints. "It is absolutely a good effort, but it's now up to elected officials to keep a close watch on the downtown location on the East River. And the opening of Brooklyn Bridge Park is a 'P' earl' this year, so we're sure the plan has the desired effect."

The new flight plan could eliminate up to 30 percent of those tourism flights — though news and emergency flights will, of course,

several Manhattan sightseeing companies, which take off from a helipad near the South Street Seaport in rapid succession during the day.

The agency could not be reached for our whirring online deadline.

The whole hubbub began after a helicopter on the West Side of Manhattan shot down a flight last Friday night, sending more traffic to the downtown location on the East River. And the opening of Brooklyn Bridge Park is a 'P' earl' this year, so we're sure the plan has the desired effect."

Amid the controversy over noise, one problem emerged: Residents

complained that 311 operators were not properly logging noise complaints, resulting in difficult proving that helicopters were a nuisance.

The deal calls for a streamlined 311 system to allow complaints to be properly tracked. If the tourism agencies screw up, they'll be fined and may lose their license.

In summary, the deal also calls for:

• No short tours. About 20 percent of sightseeing flights are short, four-to-eight-minute flights and are "major contributors" to the noise. They've been eliminated.

• No sightseeing over Brooklyn at all, but the Brooklyn Bridge it was spared the ban.

• New tour routes: Pilots will be forced to turn off and land toward the south end of the island, maximizing their distance from Brooklyn Bridge Park.

• No short tours. About 20 percent of sightseeing flights are short, four-to-eight-minute flights and are "major contributors" to the noise. They've been eliminated.

FLASHBACK

CHOPPER STOPPERS!



Heights battles helicopters

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

After the city's decision to ban sightseeing flights over Brooklyn Heights, the community got to work.

Target, the country's fifth-largest retail store in sales, is very similar to top retailer Walmart in its merchandise. It has three stores spread strategically across the borough.

Walmart makes case for fair wages

Retailer says salaries are the same as other department stores

By Stephen Witt
The Brooklyn Paper

If Target can do it, so can we," said Target spokesman Michael Saks, who visited the company's headquarters in Minneapolis to protest unionized labor as part of its advancement into Brooklyn.

"A majority of national retail is non-union," said Steven Reiss, Walmart's director of community affairs.

"When you look at retail and what we

center at Jamaica Bay, but noted that such stores as Target, Walgreens, Best Buy, Home Depot and Lowe's were not unionized.

Target, the country's fifth-largest retail store in sales, is very similar to top retailer Walmart in its merchandise. It has three stores spread strategically across the borough.

This includes a location at the Atlantic Terminal Mall in Fort Greene, a

central Brooklyn location near Brooklyn College at the Flatbush-Nstrand avenue junction, and the Gateway Center at the intersection of Bay Ridge and Franklin Streets.

Workers at these Target stores said that they enjoy their work, despite starting salaries for part-timers of \$8.50 an hour.

"There are a lot of opportunities

See WALMART on page 2

Chicken heads? Blood? Trash? So what!

EPA gives Prospect Park cleanliness award despite rampant debris

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Within about two months of trash-dumping, chicken beheadings, blood-letting and furniture abandonment in the Prospect Park lake — the environmental group just gave the park an award for cleanliness.

The top environmental agency in the country doled out an "environmental award" to Prospect Park last month — and the parkgoers are as stunned as the day they first laid eyes on that nasty pile of intestines on the edge of the lake.

"It was kind of angry," said Diana Zandt, who visits the park daily with her rat terrier, Izzy Louise. "The chicken heads, a TV set in [the lake], the swan that died — it seems really silly to me."

"Every time there is a nice day in the park, you can guarantee there will be trash everywhere. I can't let my dog off the leash [because of the trash] because she eats everything in sight."

A spokeswoman for the EPA — clearly not one of our readers — was unaware of the many gross-outs that

recently occurred at Prospect Park, and quickly pointed out that the praise accompanying the award did not specifically address the lake.

"The things that you described — not only am I not aware of it, but that's what happened," said Carolyn Newton, an EPA spokeswoman. "I assume they weren't related to the award."

The award specifically lauded the

park's tree-care team, as well as the Audubon Center, which becomes a major attraction for families.

A spokesman for Prospect Park, Eugene Patron, said the award was further proof that the park was healthy — despite numerous claims to the contrary.

"The park is widely seen as healthy — despite the incidents," said a confident Patron. "When looking at the park holistically, there is no indication that there is anything wrong with the park."

Shame



Shame

See SHAME on page 12



Brooklyn Paper/Alvarez

Cops arrested a purse-snatcher in a cool sting operation at the Trader Joe's on Court Street in Cobble Hill, the scene of many prior thefts.

COPS STING JOE

Bandit nabbed at trendy store

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops arrested a thief in a daring stakeout in the aisles of Trader Joe's, the Court Street supermarket that has hosted a rash of purse-snatches this year.

Capt. Kenneth Cory of the 76th Precinct said that his undercover officers posed as shoppers in the popular supermarket a few days per week, but that on the first night the cops nabbed someone for stealing a purse.

The man, identified only as "Cory," was a hotspot.

The Hamptons-themed supermarket is known for its frequent robberies as it is for its low-priced, line-caught salmon, which has attracted thieves who prey on shoppers as they walk away from their belongings to

peruse the myriad offerings.

But on April 23, one perp's day at the office didn't go as planned.

According to police, two officers fanned out inside the store, with one officer standing near the entrance outside. One cop pretended to shop — and then drift away from her cart and the pocketbook on it — while the other officer kept watch from a different aisle.

At around 2:30 pm, a thief grabbed the purse — which contained \$20 — and ran out of the store into a waiting car.

But he didn't get far. The inside officer had already radioed a description of the perp to the outside officer, who quickly ran and arrested the suspect, who was in possession of a small quantity of marijuana, which is not sold at the otherwise lawful supermarket.

See JOE on page 2

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EPA invites you to select the facilitator for the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites you to attend a public information meeting to meet the candidates for the neutral facilitator of the Gowanus Community Advisory Group.

Tuesday, May 11, 2010
from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
in the auditorium of
P.S. 32
located at
317 Hoyt Street, Brooklyn, NY

Here is an opportunity to hear what the candidates have to say, ask questions and decide whom you would like to facilitate the initial formation and operation of the Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group

For more information about the meeting
or other site related issues you can contact:

Natalie Loney
Community Involvement Coordinator
loney.natalie@epa.gov
(212) 637-3639 or 1-800-346-5009

Christos Tsiamis
Remedial Project Manager
tsiamis.christos@epa.gov
(212) 637-4257

Information about the candidates is available at:
www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/gowanus/cag.html

Superfunds!

City, National Grid sign on dotted line
to pay for feds' Gowanus Canal cleanup

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The city and National Grid have finally on the hook for the clean-up of the Gowanus Canal, the federal government announced last week.

The agreement between the polluters of "Lavender Lake" and the Environmental Protection Agency marks the first time the Superfund process—and is expected to be the first of many such deals with other polluters, a list that includes the U.S. Navy and Con Edison.

Under the deal, the city and National Grid will pay to dredge the canal and allow to sample the ground water," said EPA spokesman Elias Rodriguez. "The water which makes its way to the canal is contaminated by the contamination to the canal."

In addition to underwriting the cost of the 20- to 50-foot deep work, the polluters will hire an environmental firm involved in supervising the sites. There's no estimate of the cost of this part of the work because Superfund is a "pay-as-you-go" process.

Rodriguez added that the collection process should start this month and be finished around August.

The locations of the wells used like pollution's still ground water at the former Fulton Street coal gasification plant on First Street, and the old Brooklyn Rapid Transit Power Station at Smith and Ninth streets.

There will be more locations and more wells in



a recent press release from the agency to be believed.

"The contamination poses risks to the nearby residents who use the canal for fishing," the release reads.

A note to the desk jockeys at the EPA: No one does that in Brooklyn, a process that should take

five years or so.

Interestingly, the EPA has noticed some strange goings on at the canal as of late—if you eat enough industrial plastic pipes.

"The contamination poses a threat to the nearby residents who use the canal for fishing," the release reads.

A note to the desk jockeys in Washington: No one does that in Brooklyn.

Five years or so.

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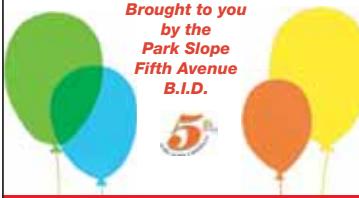
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WALMART

Continued from page 1
for promotion," said one full-time employee, who refused to give his name. "This store is very organized. There are always associates helping people."

Restivo refused to reveal the starting salary for Walmart employees, but a worker

at its North Bergen, N.J. store said starting salaries for part-time workers ranged from \$8-\$11 per hour, depending on department.

The minimum wage in New Jersey is \$7.25 per hour.

Thousands of people come out to apply for a job every time we open a new store," said Restivo. "In 2006, when the economy was good, we opened a store in New Jersey and 8,000 people applied for 400 jobs."

But union officials disagree with Walmart's thinking.

"Walmart may create jobs in the front end, but they erode the back end," said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the city's retail, wholesale and department store union. "Unions are pushing for crushing Walmart forces out good jobs and reliable retailers while bringing down wages even further."

Appelbaum said he doesn't see a double standard in the union fighting Walmart and allowing Target to succeed.

"Target plays the role in American life the way Walmart plays," said Appelbaum.

Perhaps, but the Men and Pop stores that Walmart supposedly destroys are certainly not paragons of high pay. At a Wal-Mart store on Court Street in Downtown Brooklyn, full-time workers get \$500 for a six-day work week.

An even smaller regional stores such as Model's Sporting Goods are no better, paying the same low wage of \$7.25-\$8.25 an hour at its Fulton Mall location.

And, no, that doesn't come with benefits.

—with Claire Glass and Elizabeth Dana

**Recycling
one glass
bottle
keeps a
100-watt
bulb lit
for four
hours.**

JOE

Continued from page 1

"We saw no reason to leave the store," Corey said. "Otherwise, he could say, 'I was just going to return it to the cashier.'

And a small amount of cash is accepted in the store so customers can book the thief for a crime.

The parking strings have netted a variety of shoplifters, but this is the first burglar, Corey added.

There have been at least four incidents of crimes at Trader Joe's this year, in which the top cop partly attributed to the relaxing feeling that the store gives its patrons.

"They have an there myself and there's a high comfort level," he said. "In other stores, people clutch their bags to the bone, but not at Trader Joe's, they don't watch so closely."

"People walk away from their bags for 10 minutes, even," he added.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 7–May 13, 2010

Norah & more

The 'Celebrate Brooklyn' shed is out — so set your calendar

By Meredith Deliso
Community Newspaper Group

Your summer is here — the schedule for Celebrate Brooklyn is here.

The annual festival of free music,

film and dance at the Prospect Park band-

shell kicks off on June 9 with a show by Grammy-nominated Norah Jones.

The Cobble Hill resident has a tough

act to follow; last year's opener with Da-

vid Byrne drew roughly 27,000 people

— the largest audience in the history of the festival.

"That was unprecedented and abso-

lutely fantastic on every level," said Jack

Walsh, festival producer and the director

of the Media Bklyn media program for BRIC

(Art) Media Bklyn, the outstanding arts

group with the awfully typoset name that runs Celebrate Brooklyn.

"How do you top that? We've thought

about it, but nothing is to try. Norah Jones's opening

for us this season is

going to be a differ-

ent show. She has

great musicality, as well as some old

hits."

Walsh tried to get

Jonas to play the fes-

tival before she made it big with 2002's

"Come Away with Me," without any luck.

When he approached her about doing a

free show, she turned him down because

she lives in ... "She immediately said yes," said Walsh.

Other highlights of the seven-month

festival come from other big names like

Sonic Youth (July 31), lesser-known acts

such as Metta & the Cornerstones (July



Photo by Daniel Givony



Norah Jones (above) kicks off Celebrate Brooklyn with a free show on June 9. Kim Gordon (left) and her bandmates in Sonic Youth will rock the band shell on July 31.

MUSIC

Celebrate Brooklyn at the Pros-
pect Park Bandshell in Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 260-2500. For info, visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

17), a Brooklyn-based reggae group, and

rising Brooklyn soul stars Sharon Jones

and the Dap-Kings (Aug. 7).

In previous years, the festival will

host feature film screenings paired with

live music, including a screening of

"House of Usher" (Aug. 6), which is getting

a new score from Prospect Heights-based

indie jazz pianist Marco Benevento. The

eclectic mix will also prominently

feature the always irreverent Eugene Mirman

(June 17) and dance

Zvit Goethen (July 1).

We really try to

create an art that has

something for everybody,"

said Walsh. "This is the grandaddy

of this type of thing. It's what's great about

living in Brooklyn; in its summertime

it's a time of community. Brooklyn

needs to pay some bills, so there are four

ticketed concerts throughout the summer,

including Passion Pit (June 29 — sold out),

Bethany Wainwright (July 29), The National

and Beck (Haus (July 27 — sold out),

and The Dead Weather (Aug. 3).

African Festival

Konono No. 1, Omar Pene &
Super Diamond, Chinowho,
Meta & The Cornerstones
and Djara

Saturday, July 17, 2–9 pm

The Chaplin Mutuals

Live scores by Carl Davis / The
Two Man Gentleman Band

Thursday, July 22, 7:30 pm

Bomba Estéreo

La Secta Alistar / Rita Indiana

Friday, July 23, 7 pm

Field of Dreams (Un Mundo Nuevo)

Andres Levin & The Bruno High
Quality Foundation

Saturday, July 24, 4 pm

Mi21: Mother India 21st Century Remix

Live score by DJ Tigertstyle / Falu

Thursday, July 29, 8 pm

Rufus Wainwright

Tuesday, July 20

The National

The Beach House

Tuesday, July 27, Sold out.

Sonic Youth

Grass Widow / Talk Normal

Tuesday, Aug. 3

Benefit concerts

Passion Pit

Saturday, June 26, Sold out.

Rufus Wainwright

Tuesday, July 20

The National

The Beach House

Tuesday, July 27, Sold out.

The Dead Weather

Tuesday, Aug. 3

ART

CINEMA

Films on 5th

Dinner and a movie just got easy. Park Slope's Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District has revolutionized this classic dating staple with its "Films on Fifth 2010" series.

From now until May 10, 20 films selected by Brooklyn movie makers will be viewed at various locations along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, from bars to restaurants to the Old Stone House.

Strewn LoRe, owner of Aunt Sue's Restaurant in Carroll and Garfield streets, said that the films, which include the documentary "Star Rising," about a 9-year-old rapper's relationship with his father, and the stickball memoir "Whatever Happened to the Purple Native Jason Cusato, and absolutely stupendous."

It'll be the cheapest night out on record. Just don't let your date know.

"Films on Fifth 2010" at participating locations along Fifth Avenue between Dean and 18th streets in Park Slope through May 10. All films begin at 7 pm and are free with a \$10 minimum purchase. For info, visit www.park-slopefifthavenuebid.com. — Thomas Tracy

THEATER

Holy trinity!



A church is the most natural — and most unlikely — setting for playwright Sarah Ruhl's triptych, "Passion Play."

Natural because the play explores the stag-
ing of a Christian's death and supposed
resurrection, unlikely because of its critical
examination of Christian pageants.

That should make the New York premiere of Ruhl's play all the more intriguing when it opens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

The ambitious "Passion Play" is comprised of three connected works, spanning 400 years and three countries, from Queen Elizabeth's England to Hitler's Germany to Reagan-era South Dakota.

In "Passion Play," Ruhl explores the devotional tradition while touching on homosexuality, anti-Semitism, war, and race, as in "Angels in America." (Other plays in the triptych)

There's a lot going on — hence the play's three-and-a-half-hour runtime — so if you need some reinforcement, there will be bread and wine served during intermissions. Ingrid

"Passion Play" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, 300 Cadman Plaza East, (718) 488-2333, May 12-30. Tickets \$22-\$42. — Meredith Deliso

Now, celebrate!

Here it is, folks, the full schedule for "Celebrate Brooklyn," the annual music and arts series produced by Brooklyn Arts (Media) Bklyn. All concerts (except for benefits below) are at the bandshell in Prospect Park (entrance at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street) and are free (\$3 suggested contribution).

Norah Jones

Wednesday, June 9, 8 pm

Allou Toussaint / Davell Crawford

Saturday, June 12, 7:30 pm

Eugene Mirman & Pretty Good Friends

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 pm

JG Thirlwell's Steroid Maximus

With Dr. Lonnie Smith

Friday, June 18, 7:30 pm

Bitches Brew Revisted

Featuring Graham Haynes,

James Blood Ulmer, Marco

Benevento, DJ Logic, Lonnie

Plasko and Cindy Blackman /

Mike Stern Trio

Saturday, June 19, 7:30 pm

Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club

Thursday, June 24, 7:30 pm

Kid Koala

Short Attention Span Audio Theater

vs. The Slew / Hess Is More

Friday, June 25, 7:30 pm

Texas Tornados

The Red Clay Ramblers

Saturday, June 26, 7:30 pm

Zoom: Zvidance

Son Lux with Lottardance

Thursday, July 1, 8 pm

The Fab 5 / Uzalo

Friday, July 2, 7:30 pm

Armitage Gonel Dance

Featuring Burkina Electric

Thursday, July 8, 8 pm

Now, a toast:

Irreverent Eugene Mirman

comes to the bandshell with

some friends on June 17.

Ozomatli

Fidel Nodal / Toy Selectah

Friday, July 9, 7 pm

The Roots / Talib Kweli

Sahr Ngaujah, Bahaj + The

Dry Eye Committee + Ambassador + more

Sunday, July 11, 4 pm

MI21: Mother India 21st Century Remix

Live score by DJ Tigertstyle / Falu

Thursday, July 29, 8 pm

The Swell Season

The Low Anthem

Friday, July 30, 7:30 pm

Sonic Youth

Grass Widow / Talk Normal

Tuesday, Aug. 3

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
May 8



Ursine rock!

Our favorite teen punk rock trio, Care Bears On Fire, will storm Red Hook and question authority with their aggressive jams such as "Barbie Eat a Sandwich" and "Super Teacher." Since blushing teens the nascent Park Slope punk scene years ago, the teenagers have played Letterman and toured the east coast. Go see to the show so you can say you saw them before the inevitable sell-out.

8 pm. Care Bears On Fire at Made An Art Gallery (53 Richards St., near Commerce Street in Red Hook). www.madeanart.com.

SUNDAY
May 9

Name that sheep!

Time to nurture your inner agrarian and name a pair of new crafters at Prospect Park Zoo. Two adorable 11-month-old lambs will be making their debut, and it is the solemn duty of zoo-goers to give them cute names. Meanwhile, the grown-up sheep and alpacas will be giving away haircuts as part of the annual "Fleece Festival."

11 am-4 pm. "The Fleece Festival" at the Prospect Park Zoo (450 Prospect Park Ave., between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway in Prospect Park, (718) 399-7339).

8 pm. Care Bears On Fire at Made An Art Gallery (53 Richards St., near Commerce Street in Red Hook). www.madeanart.com.

TUESDAY
May 11



Right Thing

Revisit Spike Lee's classic depiction of racial strife in 1989 Bedford-Stuyvesant in the new documentary "Making Do the Right Thing." Featuring Danny Aiello, Van Peebles and Osie Davis, the doc chronicles Lee's best film, which was shot on Stuyvesant Avenue, possibly the most important block in Brooklyn film history.

7 pm. "Making Do the Right Thing" at Restaurant Pilgrim (1268 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636-3996). Tickets \$5.

THURSDAY
May 13

Livin' on the edge

The "edgy moms" of Brooklyn are back—and you can thank our own Smartmom—who puts together the cutting edge matriarchs of the mothering scene. The gathering, which includes legendary former Brooklyn Paper columnist Wendy Ponte (pictured), is sure to provoke while reaffirming the joys of motherhood in all its forms.

8 pm. "Edgy moms" at the Old Stone House (336 Third St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 788-3195).

10 pm. Danny Kalb at Two Boots (514 Second St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 499-3253).

FRIDAY
May 14



Sonic boom

Friend of the paper and music legend Danny Kalb will bring his awesome sound to Two Boots—a perfect venue for the crooner's blues and rock. Kalb started the groundbreaking Blues Project in the 1960s, which established the quintessential psychadelic-blues-folk sound—and now he lives right next door in Park Slope. After the gig, ask Kalb about the time Bob Dylan slept on his couch.

10 pm. Danny Kalb at Two Boots (514 Second St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 499-3253).

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MAY 7

THEATER "THE VIGIL OR THE GUIDED CRUISE": a play about torture. \$18, 8 pm. The Brick (575 Montague St., between Atlantic and Lorimer Streets in Williamsburg, (212) 352-3101). www.bricktheater.org

ART OPENING: Hosted by NYC Turnaround, featuring Jason Sams (DC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm. St. Ann's Church, 173 Columbia St., between Franklin and West Streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411.

COMEDY NIGHTS: Hosted by Nick Turner, featuring Jason Sams (DC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm. St. Ann's Church, 173 Columbia St., between Franklin and West Streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-4045.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: One World Symphony vocal artists perform "The Little Vixen." \$40 (\$30 seniors and students). 8 pm. St. Ann's Church, 173 Columbia St., between Franklin and West Streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411.

DRAMA: "RUN OF WALLS" offers doomsday drama through the air and, as the name suggests, run up the sides of buildings. \$20 (adults), \$10 (kids). 7 pm. STREB Lab for Action Mechanics (313 Myrtle Ave., between Myrtle and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 384-4400).

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: One World Symphony vocal artists perform "The Little Vixen." \$40 (\$30 seniors and students). 8 pm. St. Ann's Church, 173 Columbia St., between Franklin and West Streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411.

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MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selected from Debussy and Ravel. \$35-\$38. 8 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (Fulton Ferry Landing, One Brooklyn Bridge Plaza, 300 Montague St. in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083). www.bam.org

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave., between Place in Front and Greenpoint, (718) 238-6000). www.bam.org

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MUSIC, BAND: "THE CRUEL KIDS" play up the golden tent and enjoy a re-imaging of favorite childhood fare—such as "I'm a Little Teapot," "Amuse children of all ages. \$30 (\$25 children). 7 pm. St. Ann's Church, 173 Columbia St., between Franklin and West Streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411.

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Hot stuff: Tickets are now on sale the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey summer circus in Coney Island, Kun Fu King is just one of the performers. Yet, there will be elephans!

BLOCK PARTY: Featuring the Brooklyn Steppers Marching Band, Soul Tigers, Jamil Gaines Creative Outlet Theater of Brooklyn, Brooklyn Steel Drum Band, Brooklyn Global Noon—4 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (Fulton Ferry Landing, One Brooklyn Bridge Plaza, 300 Montague St. in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083). www.bam.org

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OUR OPINION

No to the bike lane

As cyclists, we have been genuinely impressed by the efforts of the Department of Transportation to encourage bike riding and commuting in the city. But the agency has been as proactive in its work, and few have shown as much forethought in devising innovative solutions to long-standing problems.

But Prospect Park West bike lane is just a bad idea.

As part of its reasonable assault on Park Slope's major quality of life problem — speed — on April 23, the agency seeked to install a two-way bike path along the eastern edge of the boulevard, protected by a row of parked cars.

To accommodate and protect the cyclists, one lane of car traffic would have to be removed.

The city says that such a configuration, which already exists along Kent Avenue in Williamsburg, would make Prospect Park West safer for everyone. But we're not convinced. Unlike Kent

Prospect Park West already has a great bike lane: It's called Prospect Park. The city just needs to use it better.

Avenue, Prospect Park West has significant pedestrian traffic that will have to share the bike lane. And for merely hooking up for speeding car traffic from the north, pedestrians will have to alert for bike traffic zipping through.

It was simply traffic-calming along Prospect Park West, the city already has many old-fashioned tools at its disposal: alternate traffic lighting, speed bumps, slower turning curves, one-way traffic lanes, or even making Prospect Park West two-way.

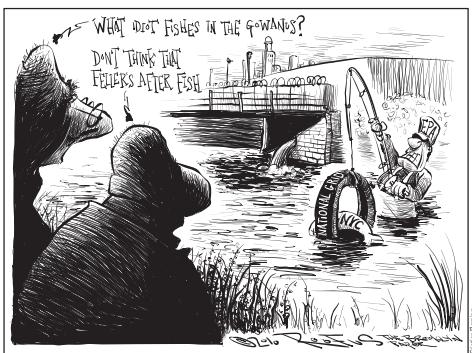
Instead, the agency is using an elaborate plan to take down a mouse — in this case, to disrupt the other realities about life on Brooklyn's version of Central Park West.

Trucks making deliveries and soccer moms and dads dropping off their charges for sporting events often double-park on the street. With three full lanes, drivers can easily get around the block. And this will be a reason for more will cause congestion — and inflame, rather than calm, traffic.

And there's something else that has been lost in this whole debate: Prospect Park West already has a great bike lane. It's called Prospect Park.

There's no reason why the Department of Transportation can't simply reconfigure the existing roadway inside the block to allow cyclists to circulate in both directions, thereby achieving the north-south bike flow that the agency is hoping to create.

If it wants to be more radical, the agency could consider banning car traffic in Prospect Park West, allowing cyclists to ride from Kensington to Grand Army Plaza inside the greatest protected bike lane of all: Prospect Park.

ALL DRAWN OUT**LETTERS**

Christians are hot and bothered over our caption

To the editor,

Your recent article about Walter, the sick pit bull puppy was impressive to Christians. It is one side of the story (April 23). In the caption under the photo, you wrote, "Walter, a pit bull puppy, was discovered on Easter Sunday in Park Slope, Brooklyn." Is the religious figure who allegedly runs on that day, he may not be resurrected within your help?

The verbage was only necessary to let the public know that deliberately desecrate the beliefs of the thousands of Christians living and worshiping the risen Lord Jesus Christ within the scope of

your circulation.

Your use of these words during a definition slip in reading the caption under a picture of a dog was wrong.

I like animals as much as the next person, but as a Christian, I take offense against your statement under the picture.

I don't understand how you can make a comparison between Walter the dog and Jesus Christ in your caption, that Walter was "discovered on Easter Sunday in Park Slope" — but unlike the religious figure who allegedly runs that day, he may not be resurrected without your help.

Using your power as a tool to denigrate any person is a cowardly and unchristian act. Your words are damaging and appear to be built around an agenda. Words like these were probably seen in many publications across the country in the 1930s, but they are probably very similar to yours, the results were very devastating, very horrible.

Apparently, someone in your organization, besides "Walter," is a very sick (and dangerous) puppy.

Mike Baker, Park Slope

To the editor,

I picked up a copy of The

Brooklyn Paper at the Key Food

and was quite disturbed in reading the caption under a picture of a dog.

I like animals as much as the next person, but as a Christian, I take offense against your statement under the picture.

I don't understand how you can make a comparison between Walter the dog and Jesus Christ in your caption, that Walter was "discovered on Easter Sunday in Park Slope" — but unlike the religious figure who allegedly runs that day, he may not be resurrected without your help.

You could have used a better analogy that does not offend any one group of people. I strongly feel that you owe your readers an apology many of them being Christians.

Name and address withheld

Editor's note: There are many Christians who believe that Jesus must return to earth to rescue the "allegedly" dead to avoid offending non-Christians. No offense was intended toward any people who believe in Christ's resurrection.

ment in the Brooklyn Bridge

Park may not be my first choice, I have seen no responsible alternative. Taking money from teachers and students to build a bridge is impulsive to expand the Park Slope Historic District ("Brownstone bid!").

On the one hand, I really want residential development in Brooklyn Bridge Park, but most people want a Brooklyn Bridge Park that is self-funding for the city.

I am not sure what the best plan uses less than 10 percent of the parks area for residential development. So people can slap themselves on the back and say "we did it" when they have done nothing but rely on the whim and caprice of the government budget process ("Citizens' City's Brooklyn Bridge Park will start to take shape," online, April 17).

People keep complaining about residential development in Brooklyn Bridge Park but no real alternative. This is a "Made in China" project that has resolved before any money is put in, so we can be assured of another round of delay as people sit on their hands and just say no without a viable alternative.

Sid Meyer, Boerum Hill

Get real, Parks!

To the editor,

You are so right on the money when you stated in your article ("Dead dog found in Prospect Park," April 5, "In Depth," April 23), "If murder, blood, air

son and death was stalking Central Park, it would be an international outrage, but in Prospect Park? Nothing."

Prospect Park should be renamed "Lawless Park," and once again, the Park spokesman Eugene Patron has given us another of his lame-brained excuses for the deteriorating Park Slope Historic District ("Brownstone bid!").

Neighbors want to save decrepit buildings — not its owner!"

What the park's dead animal

gets is a black trash bag, and it's

so shocking to know the official who made this decision for the park, cares so little for the park and its abundant wildlife.

Mr. Bahman, if you ever decide to run for the Park's spokesman position, you definitely have my love!

Susan Yuen, Kensington

Slope history

To the editor,

The deteriorating brownstone at Garfield Place, as well as the neglected and uninhabited brownstones throughout the Park Slope Historic District, provide reasons why it is imperative to expand the Park Slope Historic District ("Brownstone bid!"). Neighbors want to save decrepit buildings — not its owner!"

If the Park Slope Historic District's borders were extended so that the remaining unoccupied brownstones were within the district, the owners of the three buildings could be forced to prevent their brownstones from deteriorating further.

"According to the Landmarks Preservation Commission Website, 'The owner of a landmarked building is responsible for maintaining the property in good repair.' Then what is this regulation can be fined and/or imprisoned."

John Casson, Park Slope

Send a letter

By e-mail:
newsroom@englocal.com

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By fax:

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Editor's note: There are many Christians who believe that Jesus must return to earth to rescue the "allegedly" dead to avoid offending non-Christians. No offense was intended toward any people who believe in Christ's resurrection.

Mike Baker, Park Slope

To the editor,

I picked up a copy of The

Brooklyn Paper at the Key Food

and was quite disturbed in reading the caption under a picture of a dog.

I like animals as much as the next person, but as a Christian, I take offense against your statement under the picture.

I don't understand how you can make a comparison between Walter the dog and Jesus Christ in your caption, that Walter was "discovered on Easter Sunday in Park Slope" — but unlike the religious figure who allegedly runs that day, he may not be resurrected without your help.

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